

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following before the paragraph starting on page 1, line 7:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 1, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

The invention relates to an exhaust heat exchanger in particular for motor vehicles having an exhaust gas recirculation system ~~(AGR)~~ (EGR), composed of a housing jacket for a coolant, and of a nest of pipes through which exhaust gas flows on the inside and around which coolant flows on the outside and which is held in the housing jacket by means of pipe plates, the nest of pipes, pipe plates and housing jacket forming an enclosed ~~force flux~~ structure - such an exhaust heat exchanger has been disclosed by DE-A 199 07 163 by the applicant.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 2, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

This known exhaust heat exchanger is an exhaust gas radiator such as is used in motor vehicles for recirculating exhaust gases in order to cool the hot exhaust gases. The exhaust gas radiator which is manufactured from stainless steel is essentially composed of a housing with a housing jacket through which a coolant flows, said coolant being removed from the coolant circuit of the internal combustion engine of the motor vehicle. A nest of pipes whose pipe ends are held by pipe plates which are themselves connected to the housing jacket is arranged in the housing jacket. The pipe ends are welded tightly to the pipe plates and the pipe plates are welded at the circumference to the housing jacket. In this respect the two pipe plates form, together with the housing jacket, what are referred to as fixed bearings. When this exhaust gas radiator operates, the pipes and housing jacket heat up to differing degrees because the exhaust gases flowing through the pipes have a higher temperature than the coolant flowing around the housing jacket. As a result, different degrees of expansion between the nest of pipes and the housing jacket occur, which leads to thermally induced stresses, i.e. compressive stresses in the pipes and tensile stresses in the housing jacket and

flexural stresses in the pipe plates. The pipes of the nest of pipes, ~~which form the pipe plates~~[[,]] which hold the pipe ends, and the housing jacket thus form an enclosed ~~free flux structure~~ in which the pipes are supported on the housing jacket by means of the pipe plates. In particular, in the case of exhaust gas ~~radiators~~ coolers with a long length, such as are used in utility vehicles, the stresses which occur owing to the different degrees of expansion can lead to individual components failing or to the connection between the pipe plates being destroyed.

Please add the following before the paragraph starting on page 2, line 23:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 2, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

The means of solving this object is proposed ~~according to claim 1 in that~~ by a sliding fit ~~is being~~ arranged within each ~~free flux enclosing structure~~, i.e. a fit between two components which can slide in relation to one another, that is to say what is referred to as a loose bearing, in contrast to a fixed bearing such as is present in the prior art of the generic type. Such a sliding fit compensates for the different degrees of expansion of the nest of pipes and housing, i.e. the abovementioned stresses do not occur at all. The sliding fit can be installed structurally at any desired location of the ~~free flux enclosing structure~~, it being necessary where possible to avoid the coolant and exhaust gas becoming mixed with one another, which could lead to damage to the engine.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 2, lines 38 with the following amended paragraph:

According to one advantageous development of the invention, the sliding fit is arranged in the housing. This solution has the advantage that relatively large sliding surfaces are available and that there is no risk of coolant becoming mixed with the exhaust gas, or vice versa when there is a leakage due to the sliding fit. The housing jacket is divided transversely

with respect to the direction of the force flux, i.e., coolant flow, and both housing parts are assembled in a telescopic fashion so that, when the nest of pipes experiences severe expansion, they can be pulled apart from one another without stresses occurring in the housing jacket, in the pipe plate or in the nest of pipes.

Please add the following before the paragraph starting on page 4, line 31:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following before the paragraph starting on page 5, line 29:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of an exhaust gas radiator 1 for a motor vehicle with an exhaust gas recirculation system ~~(AGR)~~ (EGR). Such exhaust gas recirculation systems are used for recirculation cooling of the hot gases of an internal combustion engine (not illustrated) before they are combined with the intake air and fed to the intake tract of the internal combustion engine. The exhaust gas ~~radiator~~ cooler 1 is composed of a housing jacket 2, which holds in it a nest of pipes which are composed of exhaust gas pipes 3. The ends of the pipes 3 are fastened to a pipe plate 4 which is itself welded to the housing jacket 2. The housing jacket 2 has a sliding fit 5, which is composed of an outer ring 6 and an inner ring 7.